



THE PHANTOM™



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THE PHANTOM

created by LEE FALK

"NANAMARU"

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ED RHOADES

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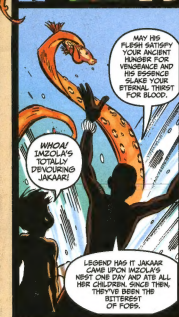
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O' MIGHTY
IMZOLA, MISTRESS OF
THE DARK DEPTHS...

...WE BESEECH SAFE PASSAGE
ACROSS YOUR WATERS THAT WE
MIGHT PARTAKE OF YOUR HOLY
KINGDOM'S GLORIOUS BOUNTY.

IN REVERENCE AND
AWE OF YOUR FEARSOME
POWER, WE OFFER YOU THE
BODY OF YOUR ETERNAL
ENEMY, JAKAAR - GOD OF
THE RAZOR TEETH.



MAY HIS
FLESH SATISFY
YOUR ANCIENT
HUNGER FOR
VENGEANCE AND
HIS ESSENCE
SLAKE YOUR
ETERNAL THIRST
FOR BLOOD.

WHOA!
IMZOLA'S
TOTALLY
DEVOURING
JAKAAR!

LEGEND HAS IT JAKAAR
CAME UPON IMZOLA'S
NEST ONE DAY AND ATE ALL
HER CHILDREN. SINCE THEN,
THEY'VE BEEN THE
BITTEREST
OF FOES.

HARNI-
I THOUGHT THE
TOUSIONDA ONLY
WORSHIPPED
ONE GOD?

TOUROO IS
OUR PATRON
DEITY, HELOISE,
BUT THE
SEA HAS MANY
MASTERS.

WE MUST
SHOW THEM ALL
DUE RESPECT
WHenever WE
TRESPASS THEIR
DOMAIN.

IS THAT WHY WE
HAVE TO WEAR
THESE?

YES, KIT. THEY
ARE CALLED
ALAU-JAKAAR.
THE "TEETH OF
JAKAAR."

THEY ARE A
WARD OF
PROTECTION.

HELP!
SOMEBODY!
QUICKLY!!







PULL UP NEXT TO IT KIT. I WANT A BETTER LOOK.

NO WAY. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT THING.







I KNOW THE TREASURE ROOM IS THE REPOSITORY OF TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS' WORTH OF ACCUMULATED ARTIFACTS, TROPHIES AND MEMORABILIA—

—BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO WAIT 500 YEARS TO CLEAN IT.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SWEEPED THIS PLACE?

SOME OF THESE ITEMS ARE ANCIENT. PRICELESS. WOULDN'T WANT TO DAMAGE THEM BY DUSTING.

BESIDES WHEN WOULD I FIND THE TIME?

YOU KNOW THE OLD JUNGLE SAYING, SWEETHEART—

“NO BETTER TIME THEN THE PRESENT.”

JUNGLE DRUMS. WHAT DO THEY SAY?

“CHILDREN MISSING FROM TOUGONDA VILLAGE.”

TOUGONDAP THAT'S WHERE KIT AND HELOISE ARE...





WELL, GHOST
WHO WALKS.

ON BEHALF
OF THE TOUGBONDA,
I BID YOU WELCOME.
WE ARE HONORED BY
YOUR PRESENCE.

ALAS, YOUR
ARRIVAL COMES
TOO LATE...



WITH GREAT REMORSE,
I BEAR YOU TIDINGS
MOST GRIM.

FOR FICKLE ARE
THE HEARTS OF THE SEA
GODS. MYSTERIOUS,
THEIR WHIMS.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
PRIESTESS.
WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE?



A FISHERMAN
TURNED UP DEAD
IN THIS MORNING'S
CATCH.

KIT AND HELOISE
WALKER STOLE AWAY
DURING THE FUNERAL.
I ASSUME, TO
INVESTIGATE.

WHEN I SAW
THEY WERE GONE, I
ORGANIZED A SEARCH
PARTY AND SET OUT TO
LOCATE THEM
AT SEA.



ALL I
FOUND WAS
THIS...







TRANSLATED FROM SWEDISH

< ...I'M TELLING YOU, HANS, THAT **DE MARGO** IS NO GOOD. CAN'T FIGURE WHY CAPTAIN **JORGENSEN** TRUSTS HIM. >

< ONE WORD, MY FRIEND: **CASH.** >

< WITHOUT THE ITALIAN'S BANKROLL, WE'D ALL BE SITTING HOME IN DRY-DOCK, TWIDDLING OUR THUMBS RIGHT ABOUT NOW. >

< YOU HEAR THAT? >

< WHAT, THE SHIP **ROCKING?** IN MY SLEEP UNFORTUNATELY. >

< SOUNDED LIKE SOMEONE CLIMBING ABOARD. >

< UH, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. UNLESS IT'S A **MERMAID**- >

GLEEK

< THERE'S NO ONE OUT HERE BUT US... >



SEVEN CIRCLES
MARK THE OBJECT
WE SEEK.

ONCE YOU HAVE
RETRIEVED IT, NO
EVIDENCE OF ITS - OR
OUR - EXISTENCE
MUST REMAIN.



OUR FUTURE
DEPENDS UPON
ABSOLUTE SECRECY.
IS THAT CLEAR,
MR. DE MARCO?

I'LL HOLD
UP MY END. YOU
JUST MAKE SURE TO
HOLD UP YOURS.

THE TRUST
YOU ESTABLISHED
HAS BEEN DULY
COMPENSATED.

GOOD.
WHAT ABOUT
TRANSPORTATION?
I'M NOT SWIMMING
ALL THE WAY TO
TOKYO.



- IN THEIR
NEXT LIVES.

A VESSEL AWAITS
FOR YOU IN MAWITAAN
HARBOR. ONCE YOU
HAVE SECURED OUR
PRIZE, ACTIVATE YOUR
HOMING DEVICE AND IT
WILL COME FOR YOU.

AND THOSE
KIDS I CAUGHT
SNOOPING
AROUND?

PERHAPS THEY
WILL LEARN TO BE
LESS CURIOUS -





YOU HEARD
THE MAN.



NO ONE
KNOWS YOU'RE
HERE. NOT EVEN
THE CAPTAIN.



WHICH MEANS
NO ONE WILL
NOTICE YOU'RE
DEAD...



MR. DE MARCO,
THIS IS CAPTAIN
JORGENSEN! WE
FOUND SOMETHING!
LOOKS LIKE AN
OLD IRON CHEST!

MEET ME
ON THE MAIN
DECK! WE'RE
BRINGING IT
ABOARD!

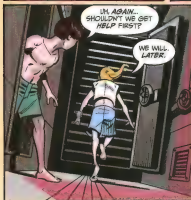


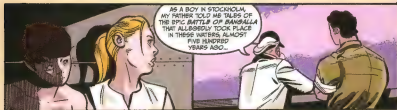
YOU BRATS
JUST GOT
LUCKY.

FOR
NOW.

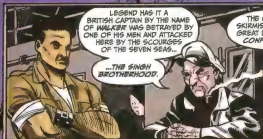


DON'T GO
ANYWHERE...





AS A BOY IN STOCKHOLM, MY FATHER TOLD ME TALES OF THE EPIC BATTLE OF BANGALLA THAT ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE IN THESE WATERS, ALMOST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO...



LEGEND HAS IT A BRITISH CAPTAIN BY THE NAME OF WALKER WAS BETRAYED BY ONE OF HIS MEN AND ATTACKED HERE BY THE SCOURGES OF THE SEVEN SEAS...

...THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD.

THE OUTCOME OF THAT SKIRMISH IS THE SUBJECT OF GREAT DEBATE AND SEVERAL CONFLICTING THEORIES.

SOME BELIEVE THE SINGH SHIP SANK IN A TYPHOON -

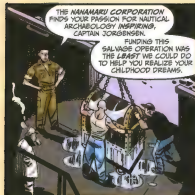
"~ OTHERS SAY IT ESCAPED AND ITS CAPTAIN, KABAI SINGH, WAS LATER HUNTED AND MURDERED BY THE BATTLE'S SOLE SURVIVOR, WALKER'S SON..."

"TO THIS DAY, NO ONE HAS EVER FOUND ANY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO SATISFY A SINGLE ONE OF THOSE THEORIES."



- I FINALLY HAVE PROOF.

"FORTY YEARS I'VE PERSONALLY SAILED IN SEARCH OF SOMETHING... ANYTHING... TO VALIDATE THEM, AND NOW, THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, MR. DE MARCO -"



THE NANAMARU CORPORATION FINDS YOUR PASSION FOR NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY INSPIRING, CAPTAIN JORGENSEN.

FUNDING THIS SALVAGE OPERATION WAS THE **LEAST** WE COULD DO TO HELP YOU REALIZE YOUR CHILDHOOD DREAMS.



YOU TWO! LOOK ALIVE!

YOUR CAPTAIN HAS WAITED A LIFETIME FOR THIS MOMENT! DO NOT MAKE HIM WAIT ANY LONGER!

TAKE THAT CHEST TO HIS QUARTERS! IMMEDIATELY!

RYE.
AYE...



...EYOL...

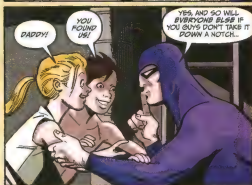


YOU HEAR THAT? THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT CHRISTOPHER WALKING OUR ANCHORAGE!

I KNOW OUR FAMILY HISTORY BETTER THAN YOU, KT. WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS WHY THEY'RE SO INTERESTED IN-



-YAAAAHI-



DADDY!

YOU FOUND US!

YES, AND SO WILL EVERYONE ELSE IF YOU GUYS DON'T TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH...



NOW
WHAT, DAD?

WANT US TO
HELP YOU GET TO
THE BOTTOM OF
THIS MYSTERY?



NO, I
WANT YOU TO
GO HOME.

TAKE MY CANOE.
I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE
TOUSONDA VILLAGE.



BE
CAREFUL.

YES,
SIR.



I DON'T LIKE
THIS, KIT. THAT
DE MARCO SEEMS
LIKE A ROUGH
CUSTOMER.

DOESN'T FEEL
RIGHT LEAVING DAD
ALONE WITH HIM.

DON'T
WORRY, SIS.
HE CAN TAKE
CARE OF
HIMSELF.

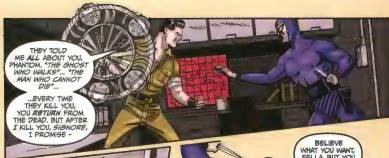


*BESIDES, YOU KNOW
THE OLD JUNGLE SAYING
ABOUT WHAT THE PHANTOM
DOES TO ROUGHNECKS...*









THEY TOLD
ME ALL ABOUT YOU,
PHANTOM. "THE GHOST
WHO WALKS"... "THE
MAN WHO CANNOT
DIE"...

...EVERY TIME
THEY KILL YOU,
YOU RETURN FROM
THE DEAD, BUT AFTER
I KILL YOU, SIGNORE,
I PROMISE -

BELIEVE
WHAT YOU WANT,
FELLA, BUT YOU
CAN'T DENY -



- THERE IS
NO RETURN!



- I MAKE
A LASTING
IMPRESSION.



NOW YOU'RE GOING
TO TELL ME WHO THIS
MYSTERIOUS "THEY" ARE
AND WHY THEY WANT THE
CONTENTS OF THAT
CHEST SO BADLY -

- OR YOU'RE
GOING TO FIND
CONVERSATION A
RATHER TRICKY
PROPOSITION FROM
NOW ON.

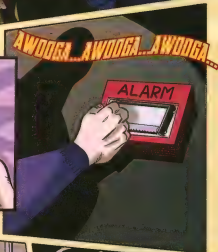
"THEY"
HERO -



- ARE YOUR
WORST
NIGHTMARE!

SHUNNY!











DAD??

YOU WERE RIGHT, KIT.
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE
COME OUT HERE...

IF WE
HADN'T GOTTEN
CAPTURED HE
NEVER WOULD'VE
HAD TO COME
LOOKING
FOR US...

WE SHOULD'VE
GONE BACK WHEN WE
HAD THE CHANCE...

WHY DIDN'T
WE GO BACK?

?

HELOISE!
LOOK!

HE
MADE
IT!

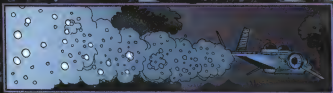
-GURUURH-

WHAT
HAPPENED,
DAD?!

WHERE'S
DE MARGO?



GONE...

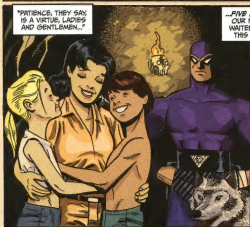




SO,
DIANA...



-WHAT'S FOR
BREAKFAST?



"PATIENCE, THEY SAY,
IS A VIRTUE, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN..."

...FIVE HUNDRED YEARS
OUR FRATERNITY HAS
WAITED PATIENTLY FOR
THIS VERY MOMENT.





FOR US,
PATIENCE IS NOT
A VIRTUE.



PATIENCE
IS POWER.



BEHOLD THE
KEY TO THAT
POWER.



FROM THIS
DAY FORTH, ALL
THE WEALTH,
RESOURCES AND
INFLUENCE OF
OUR FRATERNITY
SHALL BE DEVOTED
TO A SINGULAR
PURPOSE.

FINDING
THIS GIRL.



OUR ANCESTORS
FORETOLD THAT SHE
WILL USHER IN A NEW
ERA FOR ALL OF US.

A GLORIOUS
GOLDEN AGE IN WHICH
ALL OUR ENEMIES
SHALL BE CRUSHED
AND AT LAST-



-THE SINGH
BROTHERHOOD WILL
REIGN SUPREMACY!

THE BEGINNING...

THE PHANTOM™



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